(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में कुछ स्वदेशी कंपनियों से प्राप्त हुये प्रस्तावों को भी मंजूरी प्रदान की गई है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाईटलर): (क) से (ङ) सरकार ने कोयला बैड (धरातल) मिथेन परियोजनाओं के अन्वेषण तथा विकास के लिए भारत की निम्नलिखित कंपनियों को अनुमोदन दे दिया है:—

क्रम०सं०	कंपनी का नाम
1.	मेसर्स मोदी-मेकेन्जीन मिथेन लिमिटेड (एक संयुक्त उद्यम कंपनी)।
2.	मेसर्स एस्को इंडिया पेट्रोलियम कंपनी, अमरीका।
3.	मेसर्स रिलायन्स इंडस्ट्रीज लि०।

Welfare Measures for Tendu Leaf Labourers

1416. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate some welfare measures for Tendu Leaf labourers;

(b) whether any such scheme has been started in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, how many workers are benefiting from these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to available information, an insurance coverage has been introduced as a social welfare measure.

(c) Does not arise.

FCV Tobacco Production in Andhra Pradesh

1417. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the expected FCV tobacco production in Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96;

(b) whether the recent cyclone has had any impact on tobacco production in the State; and

(c) if so, the extent of the impact of the cyclone on the tobacco economy in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The authorised crop size of FCV tobacco fixed for Andhra Pradesh by Tobacco Board for 1995-96 season is 75.47 Kgs. It is too early to estimate the expected FCV tobacco production in Andhra Pradesh as planting is on progress.

(b) and (c) The impact of cyclone has been noticed on the FCV tobacco nurseries, transplanted crop and barns in East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam, Warangal, Karimnagar, Krishna and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh. On account of cyclone, the total production of FCV tobacco in Andhra Pradesh is likely to decline by about 1%.

Inadequate Supply of Sugar to PDS consumers

1418. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that beneficiaries of PDS in the country are still facing difficulty in getting their quota of sugar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that PDS shopowners often complain about getting less than the required supply of sugar from the FCI godowns;

(c) if so, the reasons for this short supply; and

(d) steps being taken to ensure timely supply of sugar to the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) to (d) The Central Government makes bulk allocations of levy sugar generally on uniform norm of 425 grams per capita per month for the projected population as on 1.10.86. An ad-hoc increase of 5 per cent in the levy sugar allocation to States/UTs was made from on August, 1991 till March, 1994. This could not be continued for some time due to constraints in availability of levy sugar. However, this 5% ad-hoc increase has been restored with effect from September, 1995. The Government also allots about 1 lakh tonnes of levy sugar per annum as festival quota for the entire country in the month/months of the choice of the States/UTs. In view of better availability of sugar, the Government have decided to allocate levy sugar on the basis of 1991 census population w.e.f. 1.1.1996. Levy Sugar is lifted from the Sugar Mills either by the States/UTs and their nominees or by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The allocation of levy sugar to all the States/UTs is made about 2 months in advance and the State Governments/UTs are responsible for distributing the sugar within the State/UT through Public Distribution System outlets. The Central Government has not received any specific report from States/UTs regarding short supply of sugar from FCI godowns.

Review of Revamped Public Distribution System

1419. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of the revamped Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to remove the shortcomings in the revamped PDS; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) to (d) The Government had entrusted an evaluation of Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) to Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission. The observations contained in the evaluation report has been circulated to all State Governments/UTs for taking further necessary action. These points are also being reviewed in the meetings with State Governments as action on these observations are to be taken by the State Governments. The strengthening and streamlining of PDS/RPDS is a continual process and efforts are made to tone up the functioning of the system. The coverage of RPDS has been increased from 1775 blocks to 2446 blocks recently to make available the benefits of the scheme to all families residing in blocks covered under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). The major findings and suggestions made by the PEO are as follows:—

(i) The territorial area of Development Blocks and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) were not identical in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. All villages were not covered under RPDS in some of the identified Blocks in Madhya Pradesh.

(ii) The doorsteps delivery was not in operation in any of the fair price shop in the selected Blocks failing in Bihar, Kerala, Orissa and West Bengal. It was partially introduced in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) Out of 64 selected villages, 25